

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended based on the disclosure at, e.g., page 111, line 9 in the present application.

Since Applicants believe that the present invention is patentable even without the above amendment for the reasons set forth below, entry of the above amendment (which further distinguishes the claimed invention) is respectfully requested.

Rejection over Takahashi et al in view of Yoshino et al

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (JP 2003-073598) in view of Yoshino et al. (US 5955185).

In response, Applicants submit initially that Yoshino neither teaches nor suggests organic polymer fine particles as required in present claim 1, so the combination of Takahashi (which also does not teach or suggest organic fine particles as required in present claim 1) with Yoshino neither teaches nor suggests the present invention. Applicants note that this argument was presented in the Amendment filed October 5, 2006, but the Examiner did not respond to it, so Applicants are presenting it again and request the Examiner's specific response to it.

In this regard, Applicants wish to point out that Yoshino discloses the use of alumina hydrate in its ink-receiving layer (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 11-14), not organic polymer fine particles, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner identify by column and line number the specific disclosure she is relying upon for organic polymer fine particles in particular if she wishes to maintain this rejection.

Moreover, Applicants submit that the references neither teach nor suggest providing the excellent effects of the present invention, especially providing excellent bleeding resistance over time under high humidity conditions.

Also, Applicants submit that a pore volume per unit area, e.g., 8 ml/m^2 (actually, $8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ ml/cm}^2$, not $8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ ml/cm}^2$ as indicated by the Examiner) as disclosed at column 8, lines 5-10 in Yoshino, neither teaches nor suggests the present requirement of a void volume per unit thickness of 3.0 to 5.0 ($\times 10^{-5} \text{ ml/cm}^2/\mu\text{m}$) as in amended claim 1.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious over Takahashi in view of Yoshino, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection over Takahashi et al and Yoshino et al and further in view of Terasse et al

On page 9 of the Office Action, claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (JP 2003-073598) and Yoshino et al. (US 5955185), and further in view of Terasse et al. (US 20020174805).

In response, Applicants submit initially that Takahashi as modified by Yoshino does not disclose organic polymer fine particles as discussed above, so there are no organic polymer fine particles in Takahashi in view of Yoshino which could have been replaced by any organic polymer particles disclosed in Terasse.

Moreover, Applicants submit that there is no reason why one would have added organic polymer particles from Terasse to Yoshino. This is because the organic polymer of Terasse is specifically disclosed for use in connection with silica particles, but alumina hydrate of Yoshino is a main component of Yoshino and is disclosed as providing excellent performance.

That is, the organic polymer in Terasse is specifically disclosed for use in connection with silica particles (see paragraphs [0057]-[0059]). However, alumina hydrate of Yoshino is a main component of Yoshino and is disclosed as providing excellent performance (see column 4, lines 10-25), so there is no reason why one would have added organic polymer particles from Terasse to Yoshino.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present invention would not have been obvious over Takahashi and Yoshino and further in view of Terasse, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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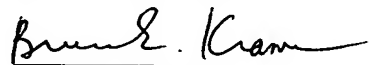
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Respectfully submitted,



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